

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A curette including:
2 a tip with a proximal mating end that includes a threaded section and an
3 outwardly extending elongated section with one or more flattened sides;
4 a shaft with a proximal end and a distal mating end, the distal end including a
5 threaded indent for receiving the proximal mating end of the tip, the indent being sized to
6 contain epoxy that hardens around the elongated section of the proximal mating end of
7 the tip when the proximal end of the tip and the distal end of the shaft mate; and
8 a handle with a distal end and a proximal end, the distal end being shaped to mate
9 with the proximal end of the shaft.
- 1 2. The curette of claim 1 wherein the threads of the threaded sections of the tip and
2 the shaft interlock when the proximal end of the tip and the distal end of the shaft mate.
- 1 3. The curette of claim 1 wherein
2 the distal end of the handle includes a threaded section and an outwardly
3 extending elongated section with one or more flattened sides, and
4 the proximal end of the shaft includes a threaded indent that is shaped to receive
5 the distal end of the handle, the indent being sized to contain epoxy that hardens around
6 the elongated section of the distal end of the handle when the proximal end of the shaft
7 and the distal end of the handle mate.
- 1 4. The curette of claim 2 wherein the tip has a distal end that is shaped for scraping.
- 1 5. The curette of claim 4 wherein the tip is coated with a durable coating from a
2 proximal end to the threaded section.
- 1 6. The curette of claim 5 wherein the durable coating is titanium nitrate.

1 7. The curette of claim 4 wherein the distal end of the tip is shaped as one of a scoop
2 or a ring.

1 8. A method for assembling a curette, the method including the steps of:
2 partially filling with epoxy a threaded indent in a distal end of a shaft, the indent
3 being shaped to receive a mating end of a tip;
4 inserting the mating end of the tip in the partially-filled indent and screwing the
5 shaft and tip together to interlock threads on the mating end of the tip with the threads in
6 the indent, with the epoxy hardening around an elongated outwardly extending section of
7 the mating end of the tip; and
8 attaching a handle to a proximal end of the shaft.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of attaching the handle includes inserting
2 the distal end of the handle into a shaped indent in the proximal end of the shaft.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of attaching the handle further includes
2 partially filling the shaped indent in the proximal end of the shaft with epoxy, the epoxy
3 surrounding an elongated outwardly extending portion of the distal end of the handle
4 when the handle is attached to the shaft.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the step of attaching further includes screwing
2 together threads on the distal end of the handle and threads in the indent in the proximal
3 end of the shaft until the threads interlock.

1 12. The method of claim 7 further including a step of removing a worn or dulled tip
2 by heating the proximal end of the tip and the distal end of the shaft until the epoxy
3 softens and unscrewing the tip and shaft.

1 13. A curette with a replaceable tip including:
2 a tip with a proximal end that includes a threaded section and an outwardly
3 extending elongated section with one or more flattened sides;

4 a shaft with a proximal end and a distal mating end, the distal end including a
5 threaded indent for receiving the proximal end of the tip, the indent being sized to contain
6 epoxy that hardens around the elongated section of the proximal end of the tip when the
7 proximal end of the tip and the distal end of the shaft screw together to mate, the epoxy
8 being softened to allow the threads of the tip and shaft to be unscrewed for tip
9 replacement; and

10 a handle with a distal end and a proximal end, the distal end being shaped to mate
11 with the proximal end of the shaft.

1 14. The curette of claim 13 wherein the threads of the threaded sections of the tip and
2 the shaft interlock when the proximal end of the tip and the distal end of the shaft screw
3 together to mate.

1 15. The curette of claim 13 wherein
2 the distal end of the handle includes a threaded section and an outwardly
3 extending elongated section with one or more flattened sides, and
4 the proximal end of the shaft includes a threaded indent that is shaped to receive
5 the distal end of the handle, the indent being sized to contain epoxy that hardens around
6 the elongated section of the distal end of the handle when the proximal end of the shaft
7 and the distal end of the handle mate.

1 16. The curette of claim 14 wherein the tip has a distal end that is shaped for scraping.

1 17. The curette of claim 16 wherein the tip is coated with a durable coating from a
2 proximal end to the threaded section.

1 18. the curette of claim 17 wherein the coating is titanium nitrate.

1 19. The curette of claim 16 wherein the distal end of the tip is shaped as one of a
2 scoop or a ring.